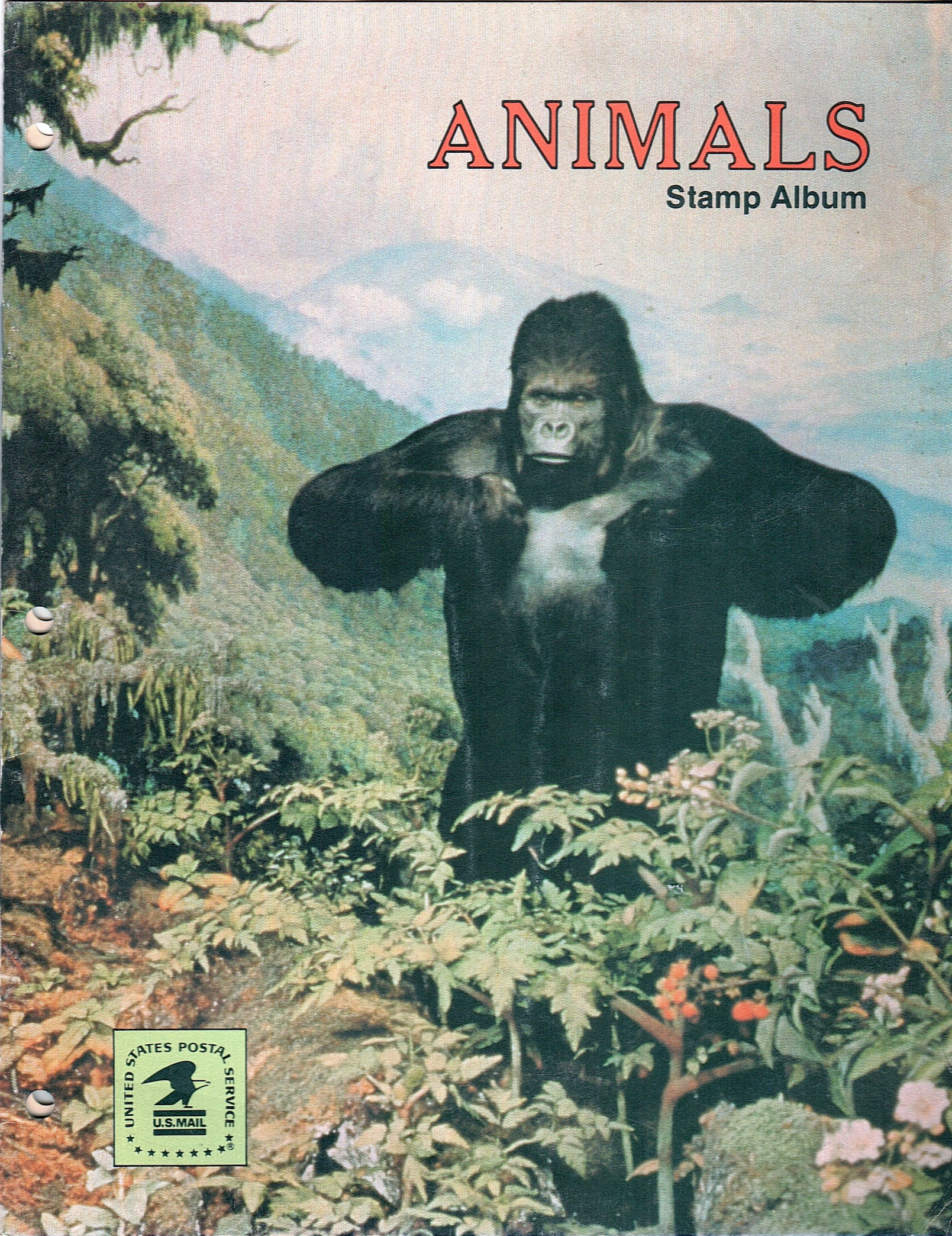
ANIMALS
Stamp Album
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
U.S.MAIL

TALKING ABOUT ANIMALS

When we use the word "animal" we are really talking about mammals, a subdivision in the Kingdom of Animals. There are only between 4,000 and 5,000 species of mammals, compared to 6,000 reptiles, 9,000 birds, 20,000 fishes and almost 1,000,000 insects. Yet mammals are perhaps the group of animals we feel closest to, for we are also mammals. Mammals are animals that have hair, are warm-blooded, produce milk to feed their young, and have a four-chambered heart.

But when you put these similarities aside, the most outstanding characteristic of mammals as a group is their tremendous variety of size, shape and living habits. The smallest mammal, a shrew, weighs as much as a dime, while the largest, the blue whale, can weigh as much as 170 tons. Mammals can be found in the sea, in the air, and in very hot or very cold climates. Many animals have been domesticated to serve our needs. As a group, mammals are extremely intelligent and have adapted to many different habitats. People enjoy watching them and identifying with the ways different animals cope with their lives. Don't you love going to the zoo?

Animals add interest and pleasure to our lives. Enjoy them in a new way with this kit. Animals are fun to celebrate with stamps.

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LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW . . . . .

If you spot a small animal in your neighborhood, chances are that it is some kind of rodent; a field mouse, a rabbit or a squirrel. More than half the species of mammals in the world are rodents, or gnawing animals. Mammals are classified by their teeth. Rodents have chisel-like front teeth that grow continually. Constant gnawing keeps them worn down to a manageable size. Rodents typically store supplies of food, chiefly nuts and grains. Often they forget where they hide them.

Squirrels are famous for burying food, especially nuts. Thus they are important for spreading the growth of nut trees.

Red Squirrel, North America

Leopards wait in trees for their prey. The spots are protective coloration in the forest.

Male and Female Lions, Botswana, Africa

The female lion does most of the killing after the male has driven the prey to her.

THE GREAT CATS

The great cats, including lions, tigers and leopards, belong to the group of animals known as carnivores, or flesh eaters. They are built to stalk, pounce upon and kill live prey. Their claws are kept in protective sheaths until they are brought out into the open to seize prey. Their teeth are designed for shearing meat like a pair of scissors. The great cats have some small bones embedded in the base of their tongues which make roaring possible.

Most great cats come from Africa and Asia.

ANTELOPES

Antelopes are grazing, two-toed, hoofed animals that are a kind of a cross between a deer and a goat. All the males and the females of some species have permanent horns that may be straight or spiral. Most antelopes live on open grasslands in herds. Antelopes are almost exclusively found in Africa. They are a common prey for the big cats.

These two are both known for their horns. The Roan Antelope's can be as long as 37 inches and the Sable Antelope's can be a 64-inch curve.

Gazelles, Kenya, Africa

The Uganda Kob is light brown with white undermarkings. It is a highly nervous animal.

The Bongo has a white-striped coat and many consider it the most beautiful antelope of all. It is exceptional because it lives in dense forests rather than on open grasslands.

The Asiatic Black Bear is also known as the "Moon Bear" because of the white crescent on its chest.

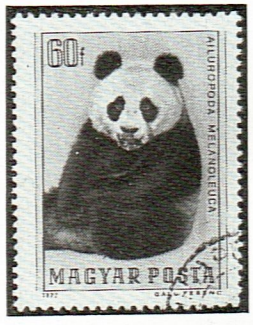
Alaska Brown Bears

PANDAS AND BEARS

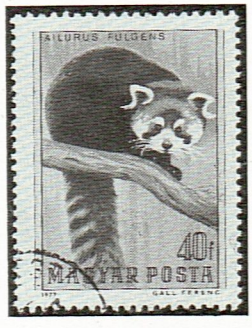
Bears have heavy bodies, short ears, stumpy tails and a flat-footed, lumbering walk. Most bears are not fussy eaters and will devour anything from meat to fish, to vegetables. But they are most famous for their love of honey. Bears are found mostly in North America, Europe and Asia.

When you examine their teeth, pandas are more closely related to raccoons than to bears. The markings on pandas' fur are much more pronounced than any found on a bear.

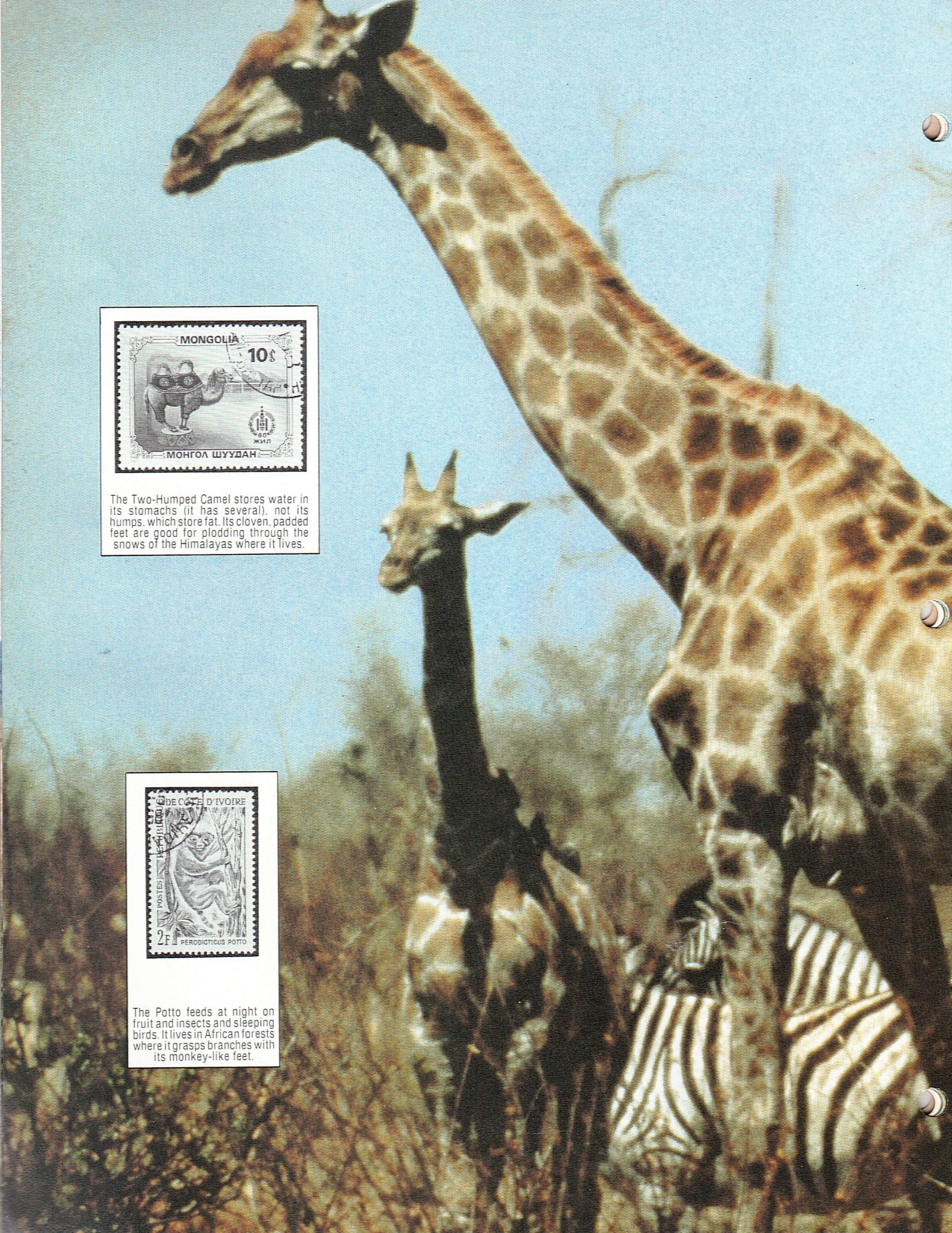
The Kinkajou has a grasping tail and comes from the tropical forests of South America. It is also known as the "Honey Bear" because of its favorite food.



The Giant Panda may weigh more than 300 pounds. It comes from China and loves to eat bamboo shoots.



The Lesser Panda is small and very raccoon-like. It comes from the Himalayas and lives in trees.



The Two-Humped Camel stores water in its stomachs (it has several), not its humps, which store fat. Its cloven, padded feet are good for plodding through the snows of the Himalayas where it lives.

The Potto feeds at night on fruit and insects and sleeping birds. It lives in African forests where it grasps branches with its monkey-like feet.

STRANGE BEASTS

In the struggle for survival, some species have developed unusual characteristics that give them some special advantage. Perhaps it is an ability to go for long distances without water, or a mouth designed to eat ants efficiently, or a neck that enables grazing off the leaves of trees, or keen night vision for hunting, or a snout built for digging for food.

Special adaptions have produced these strange beasts.

This Anteater's sticky, 16-inch tongue is perfect for raiding ant and termite nests.

Wild Boars are the ancestors of our domestic pigs. They have the worst bite of any mammal except the killer whale, because they rip instead of slice.

Giraffes and Zebras, Botswana, Africa

A team of oxen pull together with the use of a yoke across their shoulders.

Paul Revere may have ridden an American quarter horse in his famous ride. They were bred for speed in quarter-mile races.

A horse has three gaits: walking, trotting and galloping.

Horses are related to donkeys and zebras in the family known as equids.

HORSES AND CATTLE

A horse is a running machine. Its hoof is actually its middle toe, built to take repeated shocks of impact. Slim, tapered legs, a long stride and heavy shoulder muscles enable some horses to reach a speed of 40 miles an hour. Their strength, speed and endurance have been used by people for work, transportation and sport.

Oxen belong to the large group of even-toed, hoofed mammals. They have been used as draft animals, hauling huge loads and plowing fields. Their descendents, modern cattle, have been bred for milk, meat, hides, fat, bones and horns.

Heavy Belgian horses were used to breed sturdy draft horses for pulling loads.

Modern race horses owe their speed to Arabian stallion ancestry.

Domesticating animals changed men from hunters into farmers.

All kinds of cattle are grazing animals. They chew their food twice. The second chewing is called the "cud."

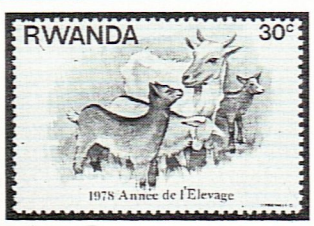
"Jerked Down"
Painted by C.M. Russell

GOATS AND SHEEP

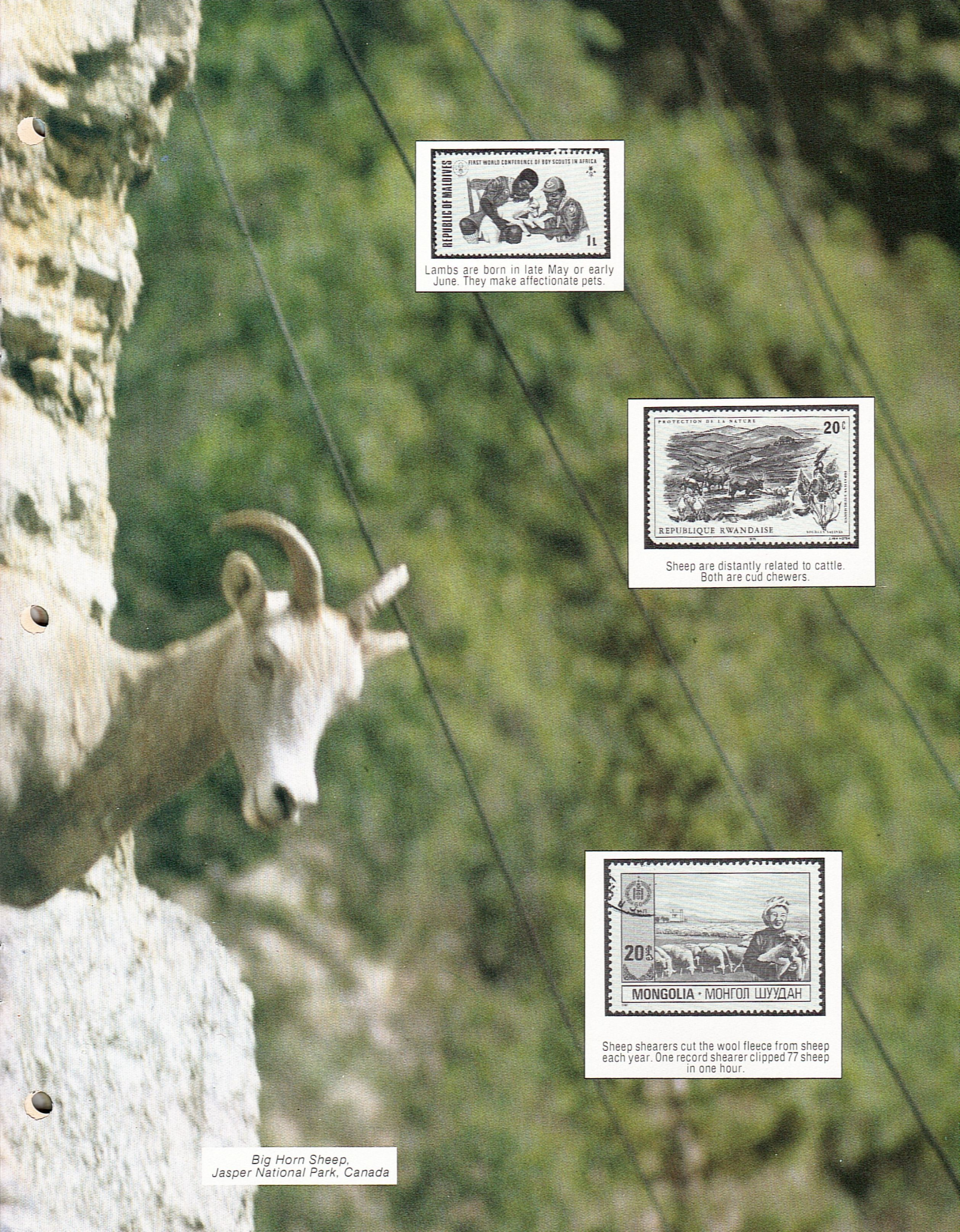
Both goats and sheep belong to the caprine family. They all have two toes especially suited to sure-footed movement in rocky, mountainous regions where they originated. They are plant eaters and have hollow horns. Domestic sheep and goats are bred for milk, meat, wool and hides.

It is easy to separate the sheep from the goats. Goats are slim, hairy, have beards and are horned. They are individuals, not easily herded, and often butt strangers and each other. Sheep are fat, wooly and usually hornless. They often act as a group. Goats have been trained to lead a group of sheep to the slaughterhouse and step aside at the last minute as the sheep rush in.

Lambs have often been a symbol of meekness and innocence in many stories and legends.



Goat milk is more digestible than cow milk. More people in the world use goat milk products than cow milk products.



Lambs are born in late May or early June. They make affectionate pets.

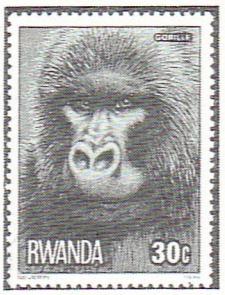
Sheep are distantly related to cattle. Both are cud chewers.

Sheep shearers cut the wool fleece from sheep each year. One record shearer clipped 77 sheep in one hour.

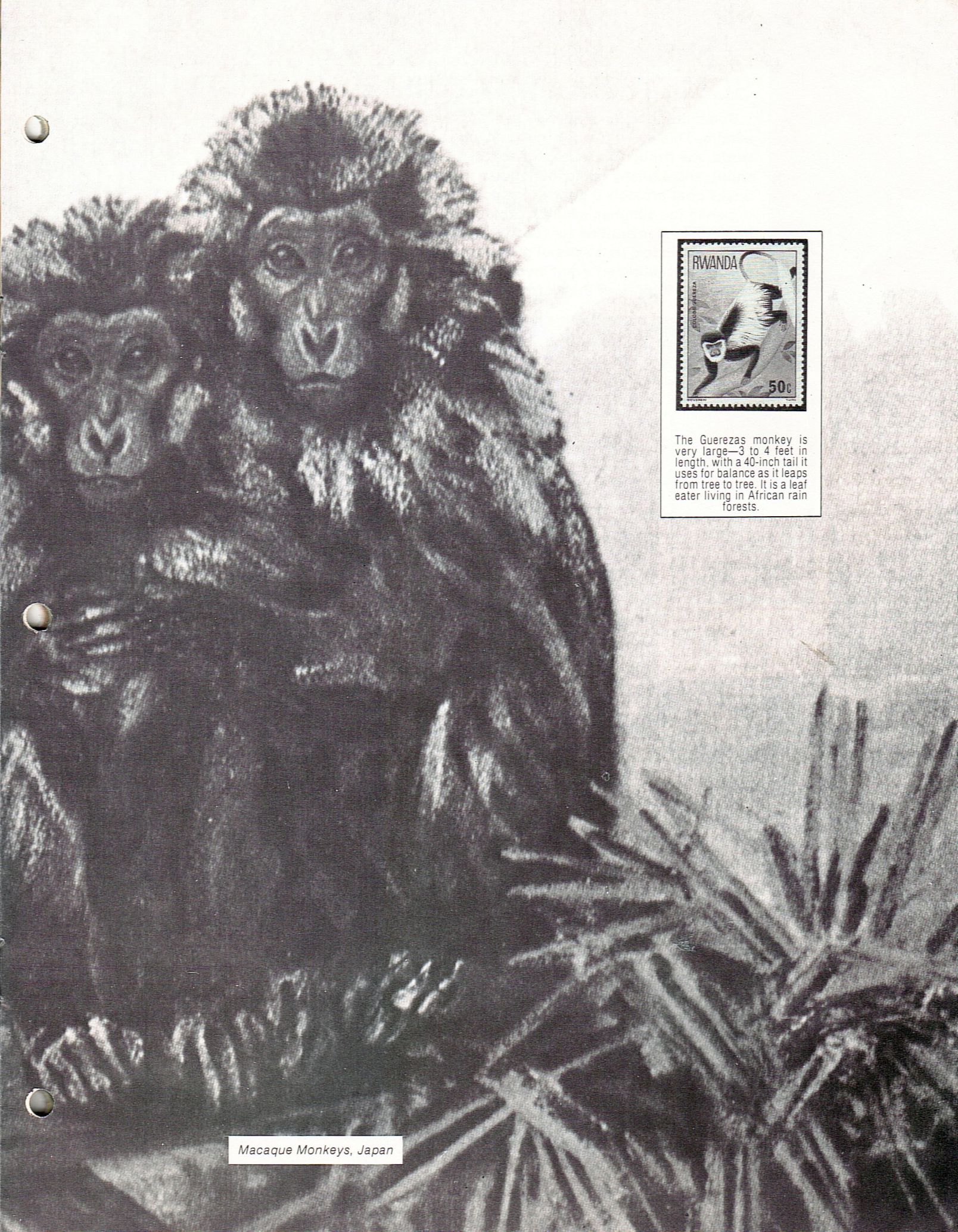
Big Horn Sheep,
Jasper National Park, Canada

PRIMATES

Primates are given superior status to all other animals because of their intelligence and ingenuity. Monkeys, apes and human beings are all primates. Scientists believe that the superior intelligence of primates evolved from their ability to hold food in their hands and bring the food to their mouth. This act freed the eyes to stay alert to enemies while the animal was eating and allowed the hands, sense organs and brain to work together in ways not possible in other animals.



The gorilla is the largest of the great apes, which include the orangutan and the chimpanzee. A male gorilla is strong enough to bend a two-inch steel bar but he is not likely to attack people unless threatened.



The Guerezas monkey is very large—3 to 4 feet in length, with a 40-inch tail it uses for balance as it leaps from tree to tree. It is a leaf eater living in African rain forests.

Macaque Monkeys, Japan

SOMETHING TO ADMIRE

Some of the traits of animals seem to embody human qualities we most admire. This arctic fox has the ability to survive in the most hostile part of the world, the Arctic Circle. Like all foxes, the arctic fox is small, has a sharp snout, and a bushy tail to distinguish it from the dog, its close relative. Its thick bushy coat protects it against the cold. The fur is white in winter and bluish or brown in the summer, giving it protective coloration all year long. It travels great distances hunting for food in the form of lemmings, hares and birds.

The arctic fox, as a symbol of intelligence and endurance, was used on this stamp celebrating an event involving similar traits in humans—the anniversary of the first flight over the North Pole.

The arctic fox has been hunted for its beautiful coat. The "blue" pelt is especially valuable.

Arctic Fox

This stamp collecting kit is just the beginning

As you carefully place each stamp in this album, you'll become more and more familiar with the topical subject that inspired the stamp. At the same time, you'll gain a true appreciation for the design of the stamp, whether it's abstract, realistically painted or drawn, impressionistic, or photographic. Visit your post office to see the entire collection of Stamp Collecting Kits on a broad range of subjects.

You can send in the card which came with this kit to receive the Philatelic Catalogue—a bimonthly booklet from which you can order new stamps and Stamp Collecting Kits.

Once you build your collection of Stamp Collecting Kits, you may say to yourself, as many stamp collectors do, "I want to concentrate on collecting one or more topical subjects" (such as sports, space, animals, birds or whatever). Or you may choose to specialize in United States stamps, or stamps from a particular continent or foreign country. It's your decision to make. And the United States Postal Service is pleased to help you in building an interesting and beautiful collection for your entire lifetime.

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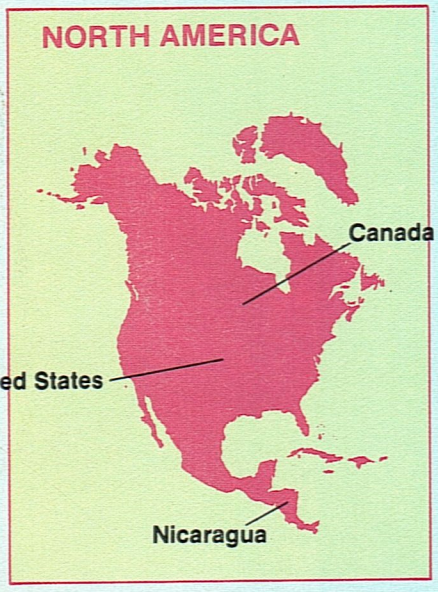

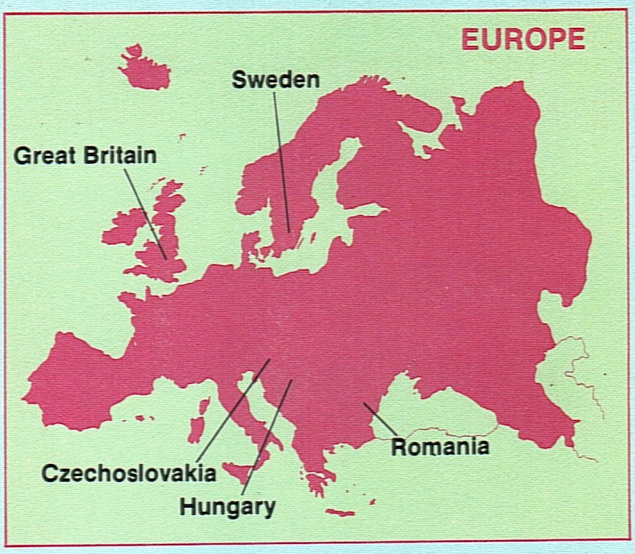

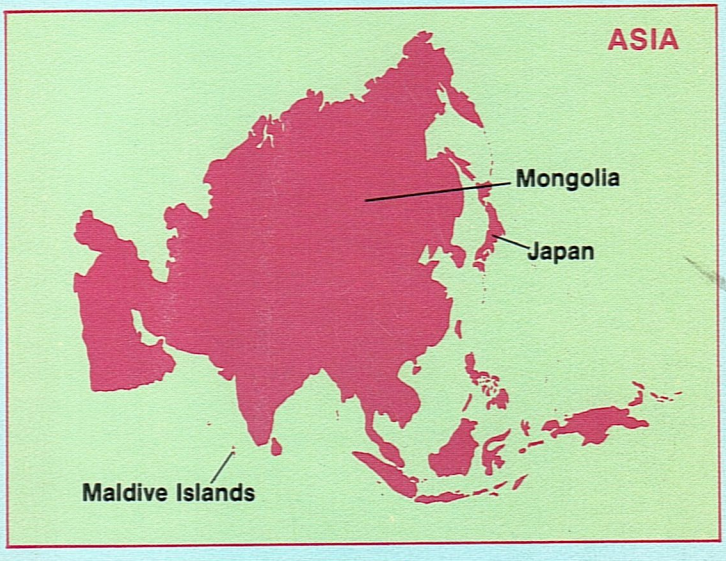

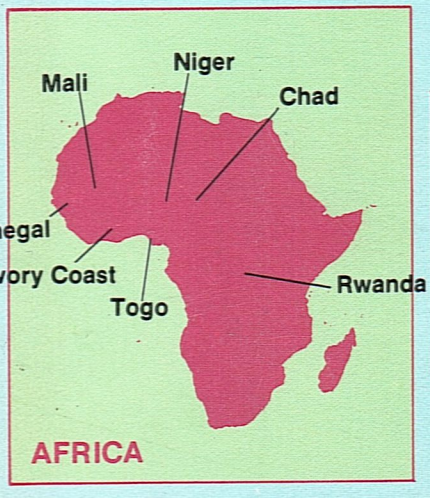

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